

# ***Iowa Petroleum Update***

March 04, 2004

## **Propane**

As of March 1, 2004, the DNR survey indicated the average retail price of propane in Iowa was \$1.08/gallon, the same as last week and 11.5 percent below the retail price of propane at this time last year. (DNR survey)

The March 3, 2004 wholesale price of propane was \$0.59/gallon, \$0.15 lower than last week, and 16.0% lower than this time last year (NYMEX Posting)

As of February 27, 2004, **Midwest propane inventory** was at 10.0 million barrels, 0.7 million barrels (6.8 percent) lower than the previous week and 36.6 percent higher than last year's level at this time. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

By February 27, 2004, **U.S. propane inventory** stood at 25.9 million barrels, 0.3 million barrels (1.0 percent) lower than the previous week and 23.7 percent higher than the same week last year. U.S. propane inventories are in the low end of the normal range for this time of year. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

## **Heating Oil and Distillate**

The DNR survey completed on March 1, 2004 indicated that heating oil was at \$1.24/gallon, \$0.04 higher than the previous week and 8.8 percent below the price of heating oil at this time last year. (DNR survey)

The March 3, 2004 wholesale cost of heating oil was \$0.90/gallon, \$0.01 higher than last week and 22.5 percent lower than the wholesale price of heating oil at this time last year. (NYMEX Posting)

On February 27, 2004, **Midwest distillate inventory** was at 29 million barrels, 0.2 million barrels (0.7 percent) lower than the previous week and 6.2 percent higher than last year's stock level at this time. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

On February 27, 2004, total **U.S. distillate inventory** was 111.3 million barrels, 0.1 million barrels (0.1 percent) lower than last week. U.S. distillate inventory is 15.3 percent above last year's levels at this time, and in the lower end of the normal range of distillate stocks for this time of year. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

As of February 27, 2004, refiners utilized 88.6 percent of their 16.8 million barrels per day operating capacity, 1.3 percent higher than last week. (OPIS DOE Inventory Report)

## **Natural Gas**

On March 3, 2004, natural gas was trading at \$5.38/MMBtu, \$0.30 higher than last week and 30.0 percent lower than the price of natural gas this time last year. (NYMEX Posting)

On February 27, 2004, U.S. natural gas stocks in storage totaled 1,171 Bcf, 96 Bcf (7.6 percent) lower than the previous week and 11.3 percent below the five-year average. (EIA Natural Gas Weekly)

The February 27, 2004 natural gas rotary rig count is 971, 1.8 percent higher than last week. The rig count is 30.0 percent higher than last year's levels at this time. (Baker Hughes Rig Count)

## **Transportation Fuels**

According to the DNR's February 15, 2004 Gas Monitors Survey, Iowans paid an average of \$1.57/gallon for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline, up \$0.01 from the previous month. A year ago, the average price was \$1.61. (DNR survey)

The February 15, 2004 Gas Monitors Survey found that the average price of regular unleaded with ethanol was \$1.55/gallon, up \$0.01 from the previous month. A year ago, the average price was \$1.60. The latest data shows ethanol-blended gasoline represents 64.4 percent of all retail gasoline sold in Iowa. (DNR survey)

The March 1, 2004 **Midwest gasoline price** average was \$1.66/gallon for regular self-serve conventional unleaded gasoline, up \$0.02 from last week. A year ago, the average was \$1.65/gallon. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

The March 1, 2004 **U.S. gasoline price** average was \$1.66/gallon for regular self-serve conventional unleaded gasoline, up \$0.02 from last week. A year ago, the average was \$1.64/gallon. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

On February 27, 2004, **Midwest gasoline stocks** were at 55.5 million barrels, 0.8 million barrels (1.5 percent) higher than last week, and 10.8 percent above last year's stock for this week. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

By February 27, 2004, total **U.S. motor gasoline stocks** were at 202 million barrels, 1.4 million barrels (0.7 percent) lower than the previous week and 2.0 percent lower than the level for the same week last year. Gasoline stocks are below normal for this time of year. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

As of February 27, 2004, U.S. gasoline demand was at 9.0 million barrels per day, 6.5 percent higher than this time last year.

## **Diesel Fuel**

The February 15, 2004 average price of self-serve diesel fuel in Iowa was \$1.58/gallon, up \$0.02 from the previous month. A year ago, the average price was \$1.71. (DNR Survey)

The March 1, 2004 average price of Midwest diesel fuel was \$1.58/gallon, up \$0.02 (1.5 percent) from the previous week. A year ago, the average was \$1.74/gallon. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

As of February 27, 2004, **Midwest diesel stocks** were at 22.1 million barrels, 0.5 million barrels (2.2 percent) lower than last week, and 9.4 percent above last year's level at this time. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

On February 27, 2004, **U.S. diesel stocks** were at 66.9 million barrels, down 1.4 million barrels (2.0 percent) from the previous week and 9.7 percent above the previous year's level at this time. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

## **Crude Oil**

Crude oil finished trading on March 3, 2004 at \$35.73/barrel, \$0.05 higher than the previous week. One year ago, crude oil was \$36.68/barrel. (OPIS Market Report)

On February 27, 2004, U.S. crude oil stocks totaled 275.8 million barrels, 2.0 million barrels higher than last week and 0.8 percent above this time last year. Crude oil stocks are below the average inventory range for this time of year. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

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